

John Twonig House
San Antonio, Texas.

HABS No. Tex-31/

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas.

JOHN TWOHIG HOUSE
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

Owner: San Antonio Public Service Co.

Date of Erection: 1840-

Architect: Unknown

Builder: John Twohig

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Limestone, cypress and oak.

Other Existing Records: San Antonio Express May 5, 1912.

Additional Data:

John Twohig ran away from Cork County, Ireland at the age of fifteen, came to New Orleans, La. and engaged in coast wise trade. Hearing of the golden harvest to be reaped in Texas he came to San Antonio with a stock of merchandise in the early 1840's; built a residence and store, which was on the present site of the San Antonio Public Service Company's Office on the San Antonio River. The original remaining structure is only the slave kitchen and wall, the house proper was destroyed in the early part of the 20th century. The part standing consists of three rooms and a basement; has pitched roof, cypress and oak woodwork.

Shortly after Mr. Twohig came to San Antonio, the Mexican War started, and in the battle between General Cos and General Burleson Mr. Twohig was captured; he was sentenced to be shot for establishing a communication with the Texans, who were the besiegers, but was saved by the gallant Ben Milam. Milam was shot just to the rear of the present site of Mr. Twohig's house. Mr. Twohig was captured and made a prisoner of Perote, where he and several of his companions made their escape by digging under the prison walls. The rigors of prison life were directly responsible for his death in 1891. Mr. Twohig was one of the great bankers of his day; he established the first bread line in America.

This information was secured from the San Antonio Express May 5, 1912.

Author:

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APPROVED:

Bartlett Cocke
Bartlett Cocke, Dist. Officer

Date: Jan. 19, 1937

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